

# 2018-09-17 Modelling with ODEs (2.3)

## Modelling a Simple Pendulum

Assumptions:

- No friction
- Rigid rope
- Massless rope

$\vec{r}(t)$  = position of the mass at time  $t$

We know ,  $m\vec{a} = \vec{F} = \text{Gravity} + \text{Tension}$

$$m\vec{r}''(t) = -mg + (-T\vec{r}(t))$$

\*We cannot add scalars and vectors, so we convert '-mg' to a vector

(Tension is negative because it always acts opposite to the position vector)

$$\hat{j} = (0, 1)$$

Idea. Use the angle to define position.

Then

1.  $\vec{r}(t) = (L \sin \theta(t), -L \cos \theta(t))$  **Note:**  $\theta$  is a function of time

2. Newton's 2nd law implies

a. x-component  $\Leftrightarrow -\sin(\theta(t))\theta'^2 + \cos(\theta(t))\theta'' = 0$

b. y-component  $\Leftrightarrow L \cos(\theta(t))\theta'^2 + L\theta'' \cdot \sin(\theta(t)) = -g$

3. **Notes**

a. **Ignore tension**

b. **At home, redo with tension and compare**

$$m\vec{a} = \vec{F} = \text{Gravity}$$

$$m\vec{r}''(t) = -mg\hat{j}$$

Hint:  $\theta$  is a function of  $t$ .

$$\frac{(L \cdot \cos \theta(t) \cdot \theta'')}{\tan \theta(t)} + L \cdot \sin \theta(t) \cdot \theta'' = -g$$

$$\frac{L \cdot \cos^2(\theta(t))}{\sin(\theta(t))} \theta'' + L \cdot \sin(\theta(t)) \theta'' = -g$$

$$L \cdot \theta'' = -g \cdot \sin(\theta(t))$$

This is the same result that we get in the video where they used conservation of energy to calculate  $\theta$ .

### MODELLING A PENDULUM WITH TENSION FORCE (3B)

The equation that is being used to model the position of the pendulum:

$$m\vec{r}''(t) = -mg\vec{j} + (-T\vec{r}(t))$$

**Let T = constant tension**

The position of the pendulum in x-direction:

$$-mL \sin(\theta(t))(\theta')^2 + mL\theta'' \cos(\theta(t)) = TL \sin(\theta(t))$$

Isolate the term  $(\theta')^2$ :

$$(\theta')^2 = \frac{(\theta'') \cos(\theta(t))}{\sin(\theta(t))} - \frac{T}{m}$$

The position of the pendulum in y-direction:

$$L \cos(\theta(t))(\theta')^2 + L \sin(\theta(t))\theta'' = -g - \frac{TL \cos(\theta(t))}{m}$$

$$\text{Substitute the term } (\theta')^2 = \frac{(\theta'') \cos(\theta(t))}{\sin(\theta(t))} - \frac{T}{m}$$

$$L \cos(\theta(t)) \left[ \frac{(\theta'') \cos(\theta(t))}{\sin(\theta(t))} - \frac{T}{m} \right] + L \sin(\theta(t))\theta'' = -g - \frac{TL \cos(\theta(t))}{m}$$

Multiply both sides by  $\sin(\theta(t)) \cdot m$ :

$$mL\theta'' (\cos^2(\theta(t)) + \sin^2(\theta(t))) = -mg\sin(\theta(t)) - TL \cos(\theta(t)) \sin(\theta(t)) + TL \cos(\theta(t)) \sin(\theta(t))$$

The last two terms cancel out.

Therefore,

$$\theta'' = -\frac{g \sin(\theta(t))}{L}$$

### DERIVING THE EQUATION OF MOTION (using energy)

The kinetic energy of a simple pendulum is:

$$K = \frac{1}{2}mL^2 \left( \frac{d\theta}{dt} \right)^2 \quad K = \frac{1}{2}mL^2 \left( \frac{d}{dt} \right)^2$$

The potential energy of the pendulum is:

$$U = mgL(1 - \cos \theta) \quad U = mgL(1 - \cos^2)$$

The total energy of the pendulum is therefore:

$$E_T = K + U \quad E_T = K + U$$

$$E_T = \frac{1}{2}mL^2 \left( \frac{d\theta}{dt} \right)^2 + mgL(1 - \cos \theta) \quad E_T = \frac{1}{2}mL^2 \left( \frac{d}{dt} \right)^2 + mgL(1 - \cos^2)$$

The total energy of the system is constant, therefore:

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = 0 \quad \frac{dE}{dt} = 0$$

Taking the derivative of the total energy with respect to ' should allow us to rearrange for the equation of motion of a pendulum,

$$0 = mL^2 \cdot \theta' \cdot \theta'' + mgL \sin \theta \cdot \theta'$$

Which finally gives us,

$$\theta''(t) = \frac{-g \sin \theta}{L}$$